

SHORT COURSE



International **Marriage week** SA  
1-7 SEPTEMBER 2014  
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## BEFORE YOU MARRY

### - WHAT IS IMPORTANT BEFORE A COUPLE GETS MARRIED?

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Comprehensive 'Before you Marry' course available at [www.beterverhoudings.co.za](http://www.beterverhoudings.co.za)

The decision to marry is probably one of the biggest decisions that a couple will ever make seeing that they will be bound to each other for the rest of their lives.

Couples that are on the verge of getting married usually think of these and several other questions:

- How do I know that I am marrying the right person?
- How do you make a marriage work in an era where almost everyone gets divorced?
- Will we always stay in love with each other?

That is why we usually recommend that couples seriously consider a good pre-marital course. A good course will help to answer questions such as these along with other questions while a couple prepares for a successful marriage. In the process they also ought to:

- Get to know each other better with regards to all the important facets of marriage (communication, teamwork, conflict management, giving and receiving of love, satisfying core needs, spiritual growth and intimacy, romance, sex, etc.).
- Develop a greater understanding of what awaits a couple after the wedding.
- To identify the warning signs (anything that they don't agree on or that worries them) and resolve it in a satisfactory manner.

The best pre-marital courses will also help a couple to:

- Evaluate themselves with regards to each of these important facets;
- Successfully discuss it with each other; and
- Decide together how they will get each one of these important facets to work for them.

At the end of such a course they should have a plan that clearly states how they will make the marriage work. This plan must be updated regularly so that it remains relevant. Couples often ask how much marital preparation is really needed. Over the years we have seen how too many couples spend an enormous amount of time and money on preparing and carrying out the actual wedding, and too little time and money on the planning and actioning of their marriage. According to international experts, a couple should spend roughly 60 hours on marital preparation. A good pre-marital course will cover at least 15 of the following aspects:

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| • God's plan and purpose for the marriage | • 5 Love languages               |
| • Satisfaction of core needs              | • Spiritual growth and intimacy  |
| • Dealing with different temperaments     | • Teamwork and division of roles |
| • Unconditional love                      | • Finances                       |
| • Romantic love                           | • Emotional baggage              |
| • Sexual love                             | • Marriage dreams                |
| • Communication and conflict              | • Priorities                     |
|   | • How to protect a marriage      |

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More info and complete programme available at [www.mymarriage.co.za](http://www.mymarriage.co.za)

Lastly, we want to mention that when two people are truly meant for each other, their marital preparation process will run smoothly without traumatic conflict. The process shouldn't feel forced in order to get it done.

*(Extract taken from comprehensive 'Before you Marry' e-course at [www.beterverhoudings.co.za](http://www.beterverhoudings.co.za))*

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (tonight)

**Discuss these questions with your partner tonight. Remember, you don't need to agree about everything. Allow some room for differing opinions and listen to each other's hearts.**

- What stands out most for you in this piece?

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- Which three of these 15 aspects mentioned above is most important to you?

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## ACTION PLAN

Use this space to summarise your plan of action for the way forward.

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## BIBLE STUDY

Read this Bible verse in a few Bible translations and write down what impacts you most. Discuss what you wrote with your partner.

- Gen. 2:21-25
- Mal. 2:15
- Eph. 5:21-33
- 1Pet. 3:1-8

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